

Phila. June 3rd 1892

Mr. Bosbyshell —

Dear sir,

To the sight-seeing stranger the Mint at Phila. is one of the chief points of interest and it has been my pleasure and pride as a Philadelphian to attend several friends on such a visit. On all occasions I have been met by a gentlemanly courtesy and a quick willingness to give desired information from all the officers of the establishment — on all occasions except on a visit paid there to-day, when a friend and I received such a piece of gross

discourtesy and rudeness that it is impossible to allow it to pass unnoticed.

My friend — a woman of culture and refinement, who is now on her way to Wellesly College to receive a degree for studies in the line of Political Economy, and who, in consequence, is interested in all information pertaining to currency, coinage &c — desired to visit the Mint and took her there this morning. It was our misfortune to fall into the hands of a guide, whose conception of his duties seems to be very different from that of all the others who have guided me through on

other occasions. At first I noticed that he persistently turned from us when giving information at the different stopping points, but I tried to think that it was more accident than intention and though it was annoying to have my friend miss the explanations, I gave no heed to his manner. When we reached the inclosure in the coining room, however, my friend asked him some minor question which he answered in a rather offensive manner. She then asked what was the average monthly output of coin from the Mint. In the most discourteous and insolent manner he said roughly "I don't know, I don't know," and turned away. That an insult was intended was only too

plain, not to us alone but to others who heard him. He immediately withdrew, but as I was unwilling that my friend should miss the rest of the visit on account of this person I waited for the next party, to the guide of which I addressed myself and immediately received the courtesy which a gentleman never omits. He quickly and willingly gave all information asked for.

I was unable to ascertain whether there is some one under you whose business it is to attend to a matter of this kind; so, my dear sir, I have addressed to you direct this formal protest against such treatment.

I have written thus fully because I want you to understand that it was no irrelevant

question put by an irresponsible person which met such a rebuff but an inquiry for a piece of information which if he did not know he should not be in his present position, and knowing which, he has no right to withhold from any respectable person whose privilege it is to visit the Mint.

I hesitate to think that the fact that we were two colored women might have been the cause for such treatment — though you would be better able to judge of that.

Most respectfully,
my dear sir, bring this matter to your attention, in

the hope that you may give
it some corrective notice. ^{up} Failing
in this, I feel that I shall be
compelled to bring it to more
public notice.

Very respectfully
Florence A. Lewis
768 Florida st.
Phila.

To
Col. Tashyshell
U. S. Mint.

Phila.

June. 3. 1892

Florence A. Lewis.

Complains of dis-
courtesy of Fisher.



[Abstract:] Complains of discourtesy of usher.

Phila., June 3, 1892

Mr. Bosbyshell –

Dear sir,

To the “sight-seeing” stranger the Mint at Phila. is one of the chief points of interest and it has been my pleasure and pride as a Philadelphia to attend several friends on such a visit. On all occasions I have been met by a gentlemanly courtesy and a quick willingness to give desired information from all the officers of the establishment – on all occasions except on a visit paid there to-day, when a friend and I received such a piece of gross courtesy and rudeness that is impossible to allow it to pass unnoticed.

My friend – a woman of culture and refinement, who is now on her way to Wellesley College to receive a degree for studies in the line of Political Economy, and who, in consequence, is interested in all information pertaining to currency, coinage &c – desired to visit the Mint and took her there this morning. It was our misfortune to fall into the hands of a guide whose conception of his duties seems to be very different from that of all the others who have guided me through on other occasions. At first I notice that he persistently turned from us when giving information at the different stopping points, but I tried to think that it was more accident than intention and though it was annoying to have my friend miss the explanations, I gave no heed to his manner. When we reached the inclosure in the coining room, however, my friend asked him some minor question which he answered in a rather offensive manner. She then asked what was the average monthly output of coin from the Mint. In the most discourteous and insolent manner he said roughly “I don’t know, I don’t know,” and turned away. That an insult was intended was only too plain, not to us alone but to others who hear him. We immediately withdrew but as I was unwilling that my friend should miss the rest of the visit on account of this person I waited for the next party, to the guide of which I addressed myself and immediately received the courtesy which a gentleman never omits. He quickly and willingly gave all information asked for.

I was unable to ascertain whether there is some one under you whose business it is to attend to a matter of this kind; so, my dear sir, I have address to you direct this formal protest against such treatment.

I have written thus fully because I want you to understand that it was no irrelevant question put by an irresponsible person which met such a rebuff, but an inquiry for a piece of information which if he did not know he should not be in his present position, and knowing which, he has no right to without from any respectable person whose privilege it is to visit the Mint.

I hesitate to think that the fact that we were two colored women might have been the cause for such treatment – though you would be better able to judge that.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 176

I most respectfully, my dear sir, bring this matter to your attention, in the hope that you may give it some corrective notice. Failing in this, I feel that I shall be compelled to bring it to more public notice.

Very respectfully,
Florence A. Lewis
768 Florida St.
Phila.

To Col. Bosbyshell
U.S. Mint